



State of Connecticut

SENATE

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Sen. Martin Testimony In Support of H.B. 5174
Government Administration and Elections Committee
February 24th, 2015

Senator Cassano, Representative Jutila, Senator McLachlan, Representative Smith and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee,

I am Senator Henri Martin, and I am testifying in support of House Bill 5174: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CHILDREN'S STATE FLOWER.

This bill would allow for the establishment and recognition of the Four – o'clock flower as the official Children's State Flower for the State of Connecticut in memory of Michaela Petit.

We are all aware of the horrific tragedy that took place at Michaela Petit's home on June 23rd, 2007.

Before Michaela's home in Cheshire was demolished, her uncle Dennis returned to salvage what might be left in the home and on the property. Among the items salvaged, Dennis returned with a few trampled Four – o'clock flowers that Michaela and her father Dr. Bill Petit, had planted in their garden.

With tender care, these plants came to bloom and produced seeds. The seeds became a cherished remembrance of Michaela, as there was little to salvage from the home.

Senators and Representatives, I ask you to please be Michaela's voice and the voice of so many of Connecticut's children who were taken from us too early.

Let's honor her memory and the memory of all children lost - please support H.B. 5174.

Thank you for your consideration of H.B. 5174.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Henri Martin".

Senator Henri Martin
31st District